

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10593 160912Z

11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 160758Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9424
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 10593

EXDIS

BEIRUT PLEASE PASS TO BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IR, IZ, FR

SUBJ: CHIRAC'S VISIT TO IRAQ

REFS: A. PARIS 29667 B. BAGHDAD 863 AND OTHERS

WHEREAS ONE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THAT PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S VISIT TO TEHRAN WOULD BE A BIT CHILLY CONSIDERING LENGTHS TO WHICH HE WENT DURING TRIP TO BAGHDAD, WE GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE SINCE THE SHAH APPEARS TO FEEL THAT EFFORTS BY WESTERN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES TO DO BUSINESS IN IRAQ MIGHT HAVE A SALUTORY EFFECT IN GIVING THE IRAQIS AN ALTERNATIVE TO MOSCOW. THIS AT LEAST IS THE WAY MINISTER OF COURT ALAM DESCRIBES THE SHAH'S CURRENT THINKING. ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS VIEW SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS INDICATING AN IRANIAN BELIEF THAT THE IRAQIS ARE PULLING AWAY FROM THE RUSSIANS. THERE IS NO AMBIVALENCE IN THIS IRANIAN POSITION. THEY SEE RUSSIAN ARMS (READ MIG 23 SQUADRONS) CONTINUING TO MOVE INTO IRAQ, AND THEY FIND NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE SUCCESS ON THE PART OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD WEAN IRAQ AWAY, A PROCESS

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WHICH THEY APPLAUD BUT ABOUT WHICH THEY ARE SKEPTICAL.

HELMS

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